

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

# Leiston Urban District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report on the General Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1911, according to the Local Government Board's instructions.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

The General Health of the district has been good. During the first quarter of the year the epidemic of Measles, which had been severe in the last quarter of the year, after temporarily subsiding, broke out again, many fresh cases occurring: four deaths resulted, all being children under 2 years of age. The Council will, perhaps, remember that the Infants' department of the Elementary School was closed from October 12th to December 12th, and the whole School from December 12th to the commencement of the January term. The evidence points to the re-assembling of the scholars being the cause of the recrudescence of the disease.

Measles is a very fatal disease amongst infants, and is too lightly regarded by the majority of parents. Owing to the very dry summer, Diarrhœa was epidemic over the whole country and the mortality correspondingly high. Considering the number of cases which occurred in this district I consider we were fortunate in only having two deaths attributed to this cause. The contamination of milk by flies, and dust, are supposed to be the main sources of infection; certainly where heaps of refuse are allowed to accumulate, affording as they do a favourable breeding ground for flies, Diarrhœa is proved to be more prevalent. In accordance with instructions received from the Local Government Board, special efforts were made for the regular and more prompt removal of house refuse and the clearing away of all accumulations.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Seven cases were notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, as against four for 1910,—viz.: Erysipelas, 4. Diphtheria, 2. Puerperal Fever, 1.

(a) Erysipelas is a disease regular in its incidence. There were 2 cases in 1910. About the influences which favour the diffusion of its poison nothing is known; two of the cases were severe.

(b) Diphtheria. One of the cases occurred in a teacher in the Infants' Department of the Elementary School; the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination. I was informed that about the same time two other teachers in the same class room had suffered from severe sore throats, as well as several of the children. Complaint was made of smells arising from the lavatory nearest the class room, but although I visited the place on several occasions I was unable to detect anything unusual or suspicious; the smoke test was also applied to the drain with a negative result. The closets are automatically flushed at intervals, and the urinal is continuously flushed.

The second case had no connexion with the first, the patient not being of school age.

I am authorised by the Council to supply antidiphtheritic serum to be used both as a prophylactic and curative agent. Also to have swabbing from the throats of doubtful cases examined bacteriologically.

(c) Puerperal Fever is a disease much less prevalent than formerly; the patient died, being the only death ascribed to notifiable infectious disease.

### MORTALITY.

46 deaths were registered in the district, of which 3 were non-residents; 2 of these latter were cases of suicide; 5 deaths occurred of residents not resident in the district; leaving 48 nett belonging to the district as compared with 28 for 1910.

The death rate is 10.4 for the total deaths registered in the district, and 10.8 for the nett deaths belonging to the district. The rate for 1910 I made 5.1, but as my estimated population, as shown by the recent census, was too high, the rate was correspondingly too low; however, the correct rate would have not been more than 6 per 1,000.

Death rate 1910.—East Suffolk 11.90. England and Wales 13.40. Comparative rates. Aldeburgh 12. Saxmundham 13.63.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

7 occurred in persons of 65 years and upwards.

CANCER, 3. One less than in 1910.

PHTHISIS, 1. In 1910, none. The death rate from this disease is declining generally, and there is no reason why, with proper precautions, it should not become as rare as Typhus Fever, which in former years was so prevalent. The compulsory notification which came into force on January 1st, 1912, will no doubt help towards this end.

INFANTS under 1 year, 7. Three being infants prematurely born, 2 ascribed to Measles, and 2 to Diarrhœa.

The rate per 1000 births registered is 63. In 1910, 22.4.

SUICIDES, 3. Two being non-residents.

HEART DISEASE, 8.

ILLEGITIMATE. One died of 7 born in the district.

## BIRTHS.

One hundred and eleven were registered in the district, to which must be added 2 born outside but belonging to the district. Of these 113, 59 were males and 54 females, and 9 were illegitimate. This is the highest number recorded in the district: in 1909 there were 102; in 1910, 89.

Birth rate 25.5 in 1910. E. Suffolk 22.12. England and Wales 24.80. Comparative rates. Aldeburgh 15.2. Saxmundham 18.18.

## POPULATION.

1901 Census, 3251. 1911 Census, 4359. The increase has been steady at just over 100 per annum. I stated in my last report that I had been accused of making my estimated population too high, and my accusers were evidently justified as my estimate for the end of 1910 was 926 too high. The Census being taken on a Sunday would miss a good number of single men who leave the neighbourhood for the week end, but not to the number of 900. I estimate the population at the middle of 1911 to be 4423. The Census gives the number of inhabited houses as 974, which again gives an average of just under 4.5 persons to each house.

## MARRIAGES.

Thirty-one marriages were celebrated during the year, giving a rate of 7 per 1000.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES and GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS of the District.

Th district is flat. Near the sea there is much common land and reclaimed marsh of a sandy nature with a gravel subsoil. Inland the soil is a loam with, in parts, a clay subsoil. The general conditions of the population are good. Chief occupations, the manufacture of machinery at Messrs. Richard Garrett & Sons' Ironworks, and Agriculture.

## HOUSE ACCCOMMODATION.

The accommodation is not yet adequate to meet the demand, in spite of 50 new houses having been completed in the year. The Council have abandoned their scheme for building under the powers conferred by the Houses of the Working Classes Act, and the building is being carried out by private enterprise. Some of the more recently constructed houses are, I am informed, very damp. I would recommend the adoption by the Council of Building Bye Laws.

The type of houses is generally speaking good, but I consider it a matter for regret that the gardens and consequent surrounding open space are tending to become smaller.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The well from which the new supply for the district is to be drawn is under construction on land purchased by the Council near Mr. Carr's Brickworks. Until the works are completed the Council have the advantage of the use of the water from Messrs. Richard Garrett & Sons' works, from whence the supply has been drawn in the past.

## MILK SUPPLY.

Nearly the whole supply is drawn from the surrounding district, and is pure and wholesome I think; the price is 2d. a pint, or  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a pint more than the purchase price obtaining on farms adjoining the district. The Dairies, Cow Sheds, and Milk Shops have been inspected. Two of the three Cow Sheds which I mentioned in my last report required cementing and draining, have been put into a satisfactory condition.

No regular inspection of Milch Cows is carried out. There is much heard nowadays about the treatment of consumption by the provision of Sanatoria, which is undoubtedly very good; but I think, what would be a good addition to the curative treatment, would be the compulsory inspection by qualified Inspectors of all Milch Cows, the compulsory use of the tuberculin test, and the destruction of all animals found to be tuberculous, with adequate state compensation to the affected owners. Infantile tuberculosis is said to be generally caused by the consumption of infected milk drawn from tuberculous cows.

### OTHER FOOD.

No action has been taken with respect to unsound food exposed for sale. The slaughter houses have been regularly inspected, and are kept in good condition. No action has been taken under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act; nor under sec. 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. No carcasses nor parts thereof have been condemned for tuberculosis. The proper administration of these Acts requires the appointment of specially trained Inspectors, and should, I think, be carried out by the County Council.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Urban part of the district is adequately sewered, though in some cases it appears to be difficult to get sufficient fall for the house drains. The proposed separate rain water sewer along the Valley Road has not yet been constructed. I think this would be advantageous, as, not only would it relieve the pressure on the ordinary sewer during excessive rainfall, which is very desirable, but also, it would divert storm water from the septic tank and irrigation area where it is not wanted, and supplement the present storm water overflow. The sewers are in good condition. Householders should regularly inspect their own house drains and see that they are kept clean and free from deposit. The manholes provided for this purpose are very seldom used, and there is undoubted need for education in this respect. The sewage is disposed of by means of a septic tank with subsequent irrigation. Complaint has arisen during the year of the smell arising from the sewage disposal works. A certain amount of smell is of course unavoidable, and there seems a difference of opinion as to whether there is more than is avoidable in this case. Extra irrigation is being provided, which will perhaps help to better results.

## **POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

There are no rivers in the district. The streams are not liable to pollution as set forth in the Act, 1876. Water courses mainly used as sewers and emptying directly into the sea, are exempt. The discharge of solid or liquid sewage matter is prohibited, unless the best practicable and available means have been adopted to render harmless such matters. I believe that one of the drawbacks to the use of the septic tank is the necessary amount of solid matter which is deposited after the process is complete.

## **EXCREMENT DISPOSAL**

In the new houses by water closets; in the older houses by pail closets. The latter method is unsatisfactory as the proper supply of dry earth is impossible. The substitution of water closets for the pails is desirable. The pails are emptied under contract by the Council.

## **REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.**

This is carried out under contract by the Council. Special efforts were made during the hot weather to remove, and prevent the occurrence of accumulations, with a view to the prevention of summer diarrhoea amongst children.

## **NUISANCES.**

No proceedings have been necessary under the bye laws dealing with nuisances.

## **BYE LAWS AS TO HOUSES LETTING LODGINGS.**

(Public Health Act, 1875, sec. 90.)

No bye laws are in force in the district. Lodgers are taken where the available accommodation is insufficient; married couples have still to go into lodgings owing to inability to obtain houses.

## **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

(Public Health Act, 1875, sec. 112.)

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district, *e.g.* blood boilers, bone boilers, fellmongers, soap boilers, tallow melters, tripe boilers, gut scrapers, &c.

## SCHOOLS.

The relief of the overcrowding of the Elementary Schools is being provided for by the erection by the County Council of new buildings which are nearing completion. I understand that accommodation is to be provided for a certain number of the scholars in the new buildings, and that structural alterations are to be carried out in respect of the old buildings to make them useful for the remainder. I have no official information on the subject.

The water supply is drawn from the Council's mains.

The Higher Elementary School had 107 scholars on the register at the end of the year, as compared with 128 at the end of 1910.

The medical inspection of the schools is carried out by the County Council, Dr. Stewart being the Inspecting Officer.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act is in force in the district. As regards the accommodation for cases of Infectious disease, the Council has purchased and erected a building suitable in every way, I think, for the purpose; inasmuch, however, as it is yet unfurnished, it can hardly be said to be available for use.

Disinfection after infectious disease is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector; the means employed being Formalin vapour.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

There is no accommodation available for the treatment of Tuberculosis either early or advanced. The disease became compulsorily notifiable on January 1st, 1912.

## MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

There is one midwife practising in the district by virtue of a certificate granted because she was so practising before the passing of the Act. The Council having no powers under the Act, I have no information as to its administration. There is a lady Inspector appointed by the County Council.

## VACCINATION.

The decline in the rate of vaccinated infants is viewed with alarm by all right thinking members of the medical profession, whose opinion surely should be worth more than

that of those not so competent to judge. The increased facilities for obtaining exemption from vaccination is nothing less than pandering to the prejudices of the ignorant. Vaccination should be compulsory in infancy, and re-vaccination at the age of seven years.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

#### A. FACTORIES, 1. Messrs. Richard Garrett & Sons' Iron Works.

- (a) Safety from fire. The means of escape in case of fire are adequate. A steam fire engine manned by the Employees is maintained by the firm.
- (b) Homework. None.
- (c) Closet accommodation sufficient, provided a certificate to that effect is given by the District Inspector of Factories.

#### 2. Carr, W. H., Brickworks.

#### 3. Lambert, J., Flour Miller.

#### 4. Fairweather & Morling, Printers. New premises have been opened by this firm, which are in every way superior to the old.

#### B. DOMESTIC FACTORIES. None.

#### C. WORKSHOPS.

- (1) Dressmaking workshops. Of which there are 5 on the Register, are satisfactory. There is no homework.
- (2) Bakehouses. The conditions are satisfactory. There are no underground bakehouses.
- (3) Laundries. None.
- (4) Domestic workshops. None.
- (5) Cabinet Maker. Smyth, G. A. Conditions satisfactory.
- (6) Carpenter. Cutts, J. Ditto.
- (7) Beer Bottling. Storey, J. & Co. Ditto.
- (8) Smith. Norman, F. W. Ditto.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT M. SYLVESTER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Leiston, February 24th, 1912.

To the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES REPORT.

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GENTLEMEN,

**Coldfair Green.**

I have inspected 45 houses, there are 3 belonging to Mrs. Thornton, which have 2 pail closets. I have given the Agent Mr. Morsley notice to have a new one made, and he has promised to have one built shortly.

All the other Houses are in good condition, and are provided with one closet for each house.

**Valley Road, Long Row, and Prospect Place.**

I have inspected twice during the year in Long Row, 4 water Closets have been made to Mr. Grant's property, in place of 2 privies, making one for each house.

Mr. Geo. Flick's 3 cottages in Valley Road, have had 3 vault privies made into pail closets.

Mr. Geo. Johnson's 3 cottages in Valley Road, have had 1 new pail closet made and 2 others repaired, and they are now in good condition, making one for each house.

**Crown Street.**

I have inspected 23 houses, I find there are 10 houses are not drained, and some of them are overdone with soap suds, and want draining.

**Eastward Ho !**

I have inspected 35 houses, and I find there are 6 houses not drained, and they are in a fair sanitary condition.

**Grimsey Road.**

I also inspected 25 houses, and they are all in very good sanitary condition, but 2 of them are not drained.

### **Sizewell Road.**

I have inspected 14 houses, 5 cottages belonging to Mr. F. J. Garrod have only 2 pail closets for the 5 cottages.

### **Waterloo Avenue.**

Recreation Cottages, 6 in number, have had water closets made to them. Victoria Villas belonging to Mr. Pearson are not drained.

### **Station Road.**

Two water closets have been made to the property of the late Mr. Goldsmith in place of 2 vault privies.

Also 2 water closets made to Birchwood House, the property of Mr. W. Taylor, in place of 1 old vault privy, and water laid on.

### **Cross Street.**

Eight Cottages the property of Mrs. J. Taylor, have 4 pail closets, only allowing 1 closet for 2 cottages.

All the other Cottages have 1 for each and are in good condition.

### **Central Road.**

Seven Cottages the property of Mr. E. G. Smyth, have had water closets made in place of pail closets, and back-yards concreted.

### **Westward Ho!**

Six Cottages the property of Mr. R. Free are not drained.

### **Bakehouses.**

I have inspected the Bakehouse, the property of the Southwold Brewery Co., the ceilings in Bakehouse and Flour Chamber have been raised, giving much more air space.

The other 4 Bakehouses are in a satisfactory condition.

**Cow Sheds.**

I have inspected 4 Cow Sheds. Mr. Tyrrell have had concrete floor and drained, and is now in good condition. Mr. Harper have had new floor and drained, also new floor in Dairy. All the others are in good condition except Mr. J. Blowers who is under notice of repairs.

**Disinfected.** 4 Rooms during the year.

Mr. John Kemp's property :—4 old houses in Valley Road, which were condemned, have been reconstructed, 4 new rooms built in front, and are now in good order.

Number of new Houses built and occupied in 1911:—69.

There are now 29 Houses in course of erection.

JAMES BALDRY,

Sanitary Inspector.

Leiston, February, 1912.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1911 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	3932	90		22.8	51	12.9						
1907	4157	86		20.6	48	11.8						
1908	4256	88		20.6	44	10.3						
1909	4853	102		22.01	41	8.4						
1910	5206	89		17	27	5.1					44 28	9.06 5.3
1911	4423	111	113	25.5	46	10.4	3	5	7	63	48	10.8

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area  
covered by water)

4783

Total population at all ages  
Number of inhabited houses  
Average number of persons per house

4359  
974  
4.5

At Census of  
1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.						
	At Ages—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.
Small-pox ... ..	...						
Cholera ... ..	...						
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	...						
Erysipelas ... ..	2		1	3	1		
Scarlet fever ... ..	4				1		
Typhus fever ... ..							
Enteric fever ... ..							
Relapsing fever ... ..							
Continued fever ... ..							
Puerperal fever ... ..	1					1	
Plague ... ..							
Phthisis { Under Tubercu- { losis Regulations { 1908 { Under Tubercu- { losis Regulations { 1911 { Others ... ..							
Totals ... ..	7		1	3	2	1	
							Total Cases Notified in each locality. (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.
							1
							2
							3
							4
							5
							6
							7
							Total Cases removed to Hospital.

[illegible]

TABLE IV.

## Infant Mortality.

1911. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes. { Certified Uncertified											
{	Small-pox... ..										
	Chicken-pox ... ..										
	Measles ... ..						1			1	2
	Scarlet fever ... ..										
	Diphtheria and Croup...										
Whooping Cough ...											
{	Diarrhœa... ..								1		1
	Enteritis ... ..						1				1
{	Tuberculous Meningitis										
	Abdominal Tuberculous										
	Other Tuberculous										
	Diseases... ..										
Congenital Malformations											
{	Premature birth ...	2	1			3					3
	Atrophy, Debility and										
	Marasmus ... ..										
Atelectasis ... ..											
Injury at birth ... ..											
Erysipelas ... ..											
Syphilis ... ..											
Rickets ... ..											
Meningitis, <i>not Tuberculous</i>											
Convulsions ... ..											
Gastritis ... ..											
Laryngitis ... ..											
Bronchitis ... ..											
Pneumonia (all forms) ...											
Suffocation, overlying ...											
Other causes ... ..											
		2	1			3	2		1	1	7

Nett Births in the year.	Legitimate	104	Nett Deaths in the year of	Legitimate infants	6
	Illegitimate	9		Illegitimate infants	1

# **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES and HOMEWORK.**

## 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors ———— or Inspectors of Nuisances. ————

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories           ...       ...       ... (Including Factory Laundries)	4		
Workshops           ...       ...       ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	8		
Workplaces           ...       ...       ...	6		
Total           ...       ...	18	none	none

## 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Number of defects, none.

